Office of the Premier

2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Premier's Message and Accountability Statement

It is my pleasure to present the 2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report for the Office of the Premier.

My team and I remain focused on ensuring British Columbia's long-term prosperity by continuing to grow our strong, diverse economy through the BC Jobs Plan – which has already achieved Canada's largest reduction in unemployment since it was introduced in 2011.

That work begins with our three consecutive balanced budgets, and a three-year fiscal plan that keeps our province in surplus while maintaining some of Canada's lowest taxes. This achievement requires us to control spending across the public sector, recognizing that there is only one taxpayer to fund all levels of government.

That is why we have set out clear, direct Taxpayer Accountability Principles for the public sector – to ensure Crown corporations and other public entities live up to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility.

We have also seen the success of the Economic Stability Mandate, which ensures public servants benefit from economic growth – reaching affordable collective agreements with more than two-thirds of public sector workers.

We have a responsibility to create opportunity for the most vulnerable in our society – helping more British Columbians move up the income ladder and build the lives they want. Through the Single Parents Employment Initiative, increased earning exemptions for those living on income assistance, and a reasonable and predictable formula for minimum wage increases, we are opening new possibilities for people in British Columbia.

Your government continues to invest in the Skills for Jobs Blueprint – getting more British Columbians trained, ready, and first in line for the one million job openings expected by 2022, with a particular focus on new opportunities for Aboriginal and First Nations communities.

British Columbians take great pride in our magnificent environment, and take seriously our obligation to be good stewards of it. Your government will continue to set a global standard with Climate Action Plan 2.0, building on the success of our revenue neutral carbon tax.

And, by getting to yes on the generational opportunity of liquefied natural gas (LNG), we will make an immense contribution to reducing global emissions by offering cleaner fuel sources in Asian economies.

We will keep working to bring British Columbians together, with a shared goal: an even better, stronger British Columbia, poised to lead Canada in the world, for today and for generations to come.

The *Office of the Premier 2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2014/15 - 2016/17 Service Plan.* I am accountable for those results as reported.

Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

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Purpose of the Office of the Premier

The Premier serves as the President of the Executive Council (Cabinet) of the Government of British Columbia. The Office assists the Premier in overseeing and leading the government as a whole. As a central agency, the Office of the Premier has a clear role to play in promoting effective policy coordination across the public service. In addition, it supports the Cabinet and its decision-making process. It instills trust in the quality of the advice and support for Cabinet on the proper conduct of government business within accepted conventions and practices. The Office also works directly with the federal government and with ministries and Crown agencies to ensure that relations with federal, provincial, territorial and international governments advance British Columbia's interests.

Strategic Direction and Context

Led by the Office of the Premier, this government's strategic objective is to grow BC's strong, diverse economy through the BC Jobs Plan – creating opportunities for communities across the province, and ensuring a bright future for generations to come.

Steadfastly committed to protecting taxpayers and ensuring the sustainability of quality public services, this government will continue to control spending and maintain a balanced budget. Our commitment to cost consciousness and accountability is reflected in the Taxpayer Accountability Principles for all public entities, and in the Economic Stability Mandate for public sector workers.

Recognizing that new jobs should be created by the private sector, this government will build on the success of the BC Jobs Plan – strengthening our trade relationships with key markets in the Asia-Pacific and around the world, and working to support success in key sectors of our economy.

This government will continue to implement the Skills for Jobs Blueprint, to ensure that British Columbians are trained, ready, and first in line for new jobs in LNG and throughout a growing economy.

Recognizing that British Columbia works best when we work together, the Office of the Premier will spearhead the continued development of stronger relationships with business, labour, First Nations, and other levels of government.

Only by growing the economy can government continue to invest in the public services and infrastructure on which British Columbians depend. The Office of the Premier will continue to work with Ministers and their staff to ensure the achievement of the objectives in their mandate.

Report on Performance

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: Government's priorities are implemented

Objective 1.1: Ministries and Crown Agency activities are integrated and aligned with government's priorities.

Strategies

- Lead and support the Executive Council in the successful development and implementation of the Government Strategic Plan.
- Clearly articulate priorities of government in the Strategic Plan and assist all ministries to develop strategies to achieve the goals and priorities established in the Strategic Plan.
- Administer government's accountability framework by supporting ministries and Crown agencies in developing service plans and annual service plan reports to ensure they advance Government's Strategic Plan.
- Guide the successful delivery of ministry and Crown agency mandates by providing direction and resolving issues requiring senior government input.
- Address priority issues on behalf of Executive Council and manage issues that arise in the delivery of programs and services.

Performance Measure 1: Performance targets in place for Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Performance targets in place for Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers	100%	100%	100%	100% ACHIEVED	100%	100%

Discussion of Results

Within government's accountability framework there are strategies in place for all government staff, from front line workers to Deputy Ministers. The Office of the Premier is administratively responsible for the performance targets that are in place for Deputy Ministers.

There are multiple interlinking layers to government's accountability framework. The Government Strategic Plan sets out the overall priorities and goals that illustrate the Province's vision for the future. Ministry service plans have goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures with targets to accomplish those goals for the upcoming three-year period. These plans are tabled in the legislature with the budget in February of each year. In June, government, ministries and Crown agencies report on their previous year's achievements through their service plan annual reports.

Goal 2: The public service is well positioned to deliver government programs for British Columbians

Objective 2.1: B.C. Public Service Corporate Human Resource Plan Being the Best goals are realized

Strategies

- Continue to develop Being the Best, the Corporate Human Resource Plan for the B.C. Public Service.
- Build new strategies and update the plan annually based on feedback and results.

Performance Measure 2: BC Public Service is recognized as a top employer

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
B.C. Public Service is recognized as a top employer in British Columbia	YES	YES	YES	YES ACHIEVED	YES	YES

Discussion of Results

In 2006, the first Corporate Human Resource Plan, *Being the Best*, was published. It was developed by the Deputy Ministers' Council, led by the Deputy Minister to the Premier. The Council is committed to maintaining the status of the B.C. Government as a top employer through annual updates to and continued implementation of the plan with the involvement of the B.C. Public Service.

Recent recognitions for the B.C. Public Service include: Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2015, B.C.'s Top Employers for 2015, Canada's Top 25 Family Friendly Employers for 2015, Canada's Greenest Employers for 2014 and Top Employers for Canadians over 40 for 2015.

Goal 3: Cabinet and Cabinet Committees are able to make timely and well-informed decisions

Objective 3.1: Cabinet and its Committees are supported with timely and effective advice

Strategies

- Support Cabinet and its Committees by ensuring they have appropriate advice on key policy, program and legislative initiatives which align with government priorities, including an ability to measure the success of the initiatives.
- Effectively provide necessary and appropriate logistical support for the operations and decision-making process of Cabinet and its Committees.
- Continue to use technologies and tools to improve efficiencies in the logistical support of Cabinet and its Committees.

Performance Measure 3: Cabinet receives timely advice on all key policy recommendations and plans

Performance Measure	2012/2013 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Cabinet receives timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans	100%	100%	100%	100% ACHIEVED	100%	100%

Data Source: Cabinet Operations

Discussion of Results

All major policies, programs and initiatives are reviewed by Cabinet or a Cabinet Committee to ensure alignment with government strategic priorities. There are currently eight Cabinet Committees and Cabinet working groups, each making recommendations to Cabinet on specific programs and initiatives within their respective mandates. For example, the Environment and Land Use Committee reviews issues affecting the province's land base and ensures that both economic and environmental considerations are balanced.

Cabinet Committees and ministries provide prompt and effective advice enabling timely and well-informed Cabinet decisions benefitting British Columbians.

Goal 4: Government is successful in achieving its intergovernmental relations objectives

Objective 4.1: British Columbia's priorities are advanced through leadership in intergovernmental, bilateral and multilateral partnerships and international relations.

Strategies

- Engage the federal government in achieving BC priorities.
- Strengthen partnerships with other provinces through bilateral and multilateral co-operation on shared priorities discussed at the Council of the Federation and other Premiers' meetings.
- Positively influence the policies and programs of other governments that affect the interests of British Columbia through enhanced economic, cultural and diplomatic ties and programs.
- Establish regional leadership, shared economic and environmental priorities, such as action on jobs and border management, through joint Cabinet meetings with the State of Washington, the Pacific Coast Collaborative, and British Columbia's participation in the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER).

Performance Measure 4: Progress on Intergovernmental Relations key issues

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual
Progress on key issues in Intergovernmental Relations Plan	PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES ACHIEVED	PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES ACHIEVED	PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES	PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES ACHIEVED

Data Source: Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

Discussion of Results

Each year, the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS) updates its plan with multi-year key objectives and major projects. During 2014/15, IGRS has advanced B.C.'s intergovernmental priorities by working across government and with other partners to facilitate and build effective government-to-government partnerships with the federal government, other provinces and territories, the United States federal government and regional U.S. states, and other international partners, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

Results for 2014/15 include:

- **Bilateral inter-provincial cooperation:** British Columbia participated in productive bilateral Premier-to-Premier discussions throughout the year. The results included:
    - a Mutual Recognition Agreement with Alberta, making it easier for oil and gas companies to operate in both provinces without having to be a resident or to have an agent resident in the other province (February 2015);
    - a BC-New Brunswick cooperation arrangement on Apprentice Mobility to help apprentices move freely between the two provinces to take advantage of job opportunities while working toward their Red Seal certificate (August 2014);
    - a BC-Saskatchewan cooperative arrangement to remove barriers to internal trade in Canadian wine and craft spirits (August 2014); and
    - working meetings with other Premiers to discuss responsible energy development, natural resource exports to the Asia Pacific, partnerships with First Nations, and climate policy.

- **Multilateral inter-provincial cooperation:** British Columbia continues to play an important role in the work of the Council of the Federation, the New West Partnership, and the Western Premiers Conference. During 2014/15, Canada's Premiers agreed to:
    - strengthen and modernize the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT);
    - share information on ways to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children in care;
    - develop an apprenticeship mobility protocol, to make it easier for apprentices to move between provinces and territories while they complete their certification; and
    - lend their support to the National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (which took place on February 27, 2015 in Ottawa).

  Also, during 2014/15, New West Partnership Premiers established a simpler process to resolve complaints related to government procurement, and hosted a Transportation Infrastructure Summit to explore ways to improve the long-term efficiency, reliability and competitiveness of western Canada's transportation system.

- **Cooperation with the federal government:** British Columbia engaged the federal government throughout the year on a range of issues important to the province. Federal initiatives of particular benefit to BC included:
    - **Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance for LNG Facilities** – The federal tax relief for Canadian LNG export terminals will support BC in our efforts to attract foreign direct investment, and will help to ensure that LNG companies reach their final investment decisions.
    - **MOU on Strong Resource Economy** – The MOU affirms the commitment of both the BC government and the federal government to work together, as well as with other partners, to develop the workforce BC's resource industry needs.
    - **Canada Job Grant** – BC and the federal government signed an agreement on March 31, 2014 to implement the new funding arrangement for Canada Job Fund Agreements. The Canada Job Grant was launched in BC on October 24, 2014, and will provide up to $15,000 per person for training costs, such as tuition and training materials (up to $10,000 from the federal government and $5,000 from employers).
    - **Canada's designation as a renminbi (RMB) trading hub** – China's decision to designate Canada as a RMB trading hub will make it easier for BC businesses to do business with China. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce predicts that BC, as the leading exporter to China, will be the big winner among provinces with an additional $9.4 billion in exports over 10 years, with most export gains expected in the forestry sector.
    - **National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy** – The 2015 federal budget promises to advance the $35 billion national shipbuilding procurement strategy in British Columbia and Nova Scotia. It is estimated that $10 billion will be invested into BC's shipbuilding and repair industry by 2020 with more than 4,000 projected job openings.
    - **International Maritime Centre Headquarters in Vancouver** – The federal government provided funding in the 2015 budget to help attract foreign investment into BC, facilitate foreign shipping companies and support businesses in establishing headquarters in Vancouver.
    - **Supporting Canada's national unity** – By continuing to align the implementation of the Canada-British Columbia Official Languages Agreement on French Language Services with our provincial priorities, we continue to improve access to programs and services for French speaking citizens.

- **Advocacy with the United States:** British Columbia is a leader in engaging U.S. border states and federal agencies. Our approach is seen as a model for cooperative US-Canada relations.
    - **PNWER** – British Columbia engaged with other governments and private sector members of PNWER to promote BC priorities such as keeping the Canada-US border open for legitimate trade and tourism and increasing economic opportunities for BC companies in areas such as clean energy. In recognition of BC's regional leadership, PNWER held its Annual Summit in Whistler in July 2014.
    - **Pacific Coast Collaborative** – the Province leveraged the shared goals and objectives set out in British Columbia's agreements with the states of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska including the implementation of the regional jobs strategy and the action plan on climate and clean energy.

- **Environment and Climate Change** – British Columbia worked with BC stakeholders, the federal government, and US federal and state agencies to facilitate the management of transboundary environmental and resource management concerns consistent with the Province's high environmental standards and climate action leadership.

- **International engagement:** The Province cultivates relations with foreign governments through direct bilateral relations and engagement with representatives of other governments:
  - **Trade and Investment Missions** – In 2014, IGRS supported the successful Premier's missions to Southeast Asia in May, India in October and United States in December. Trade missions are an important part of British Columbia's international engagement strategy to support economic growth and job creation throughout the province.
  - **High Level Visits** – In September 2014, Premier Clark welcomed Governor ZHU Xiaodan of Guangdong Province, China, to commence the celebration of 20 years of sister province relations between BC and Guangdong. A highlight of the visit was the opening in Vancouver of Guangdong's first and only Economic and Trade Representative Office in Canada.
  - **Engagement with the Consular Corps and Diplomatic Corps** – Priorities of the BC Jobs Plan in LNG, mining, trade and investment, and agriculture, were advanced by:
    - Engaging the Consular and Diplomatic corps representing 42 countries in the April 2014 Consular Corps Technical Briefing and 48 countries at the December 2014 Consular Corps Ministerial Briefing;
    - Co-ordinating the involvement of 19 members of the Consular Corps in the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Excellence in BC Wines in July 2014; and
    - Responding to more than 200 international visit enquiries and delivering 130 visits directly. Almost half of those visits were from Asia Pacific countries including China.

- **Supporting citizen engagement:**
  - The Order of British Columbia received, processed and submitted 251 nominations for the OBC Advisory Council to review and evaluate in 2015, and 205 nominations in 2014.
  - Use of "B.C." or "British Columbia" in a name: Reviewed 257 applications, approving 206 and rejecting 51 in 2014. So far in 2015, 76 applications have been approved and 19 rejected.
  - Congratulatory messages from the Government to British Columbians: received and processed 3,064 birthday and anniversary greetings for official congratulatory messages to BC residents celebrating significant milestones in their lives.

- **Technology**: British Columbia actively advanced the use of cost-effective telepresence technology in engagements with other governments, including BC's domestic and international trade interests, approaches to Asia, and other intergovernmental priorities. IGRS also used telepresence extensively to manage cross-government coordination of BC's intergovernmental priorities.

Financial Report

Financial Report Summary Table

Core Business Areas	14/15 Estimated	Other Authorizations[1]	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	2,456	0,000	2,456	2,252	(204)
Executive and Support Services	6,552	0,000	6,552	6,201	(351)
Sub Total -Operating Expenses	**9,008**	**0,000**	**9,008**	**8,453**	**(555)**
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual [2]	0,000	0,000	0,000	(4)	(4)
Total	**9,008**	**0,000**	**9,008**	**8,449**	**(559)**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Executive and Support Services	1	0,000	1	0,000	(1)
Total	**1**	**0,000**	**1**	**0,000**	**(1)**
Capital Plan ($000)					
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Total	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**
Other Financing Transactions ($000)					
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Receipts	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Disbursements	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Total Receipts	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**
Total Disbursements	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**	**0,000**

[1] Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

[2] The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of $4 K is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Contact Information and Hyperlinks

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Hyperlinks to additional information

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